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The McGill Daily
volume 85 • number 39
January 11–17, 1996

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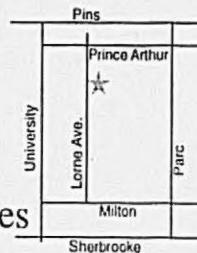
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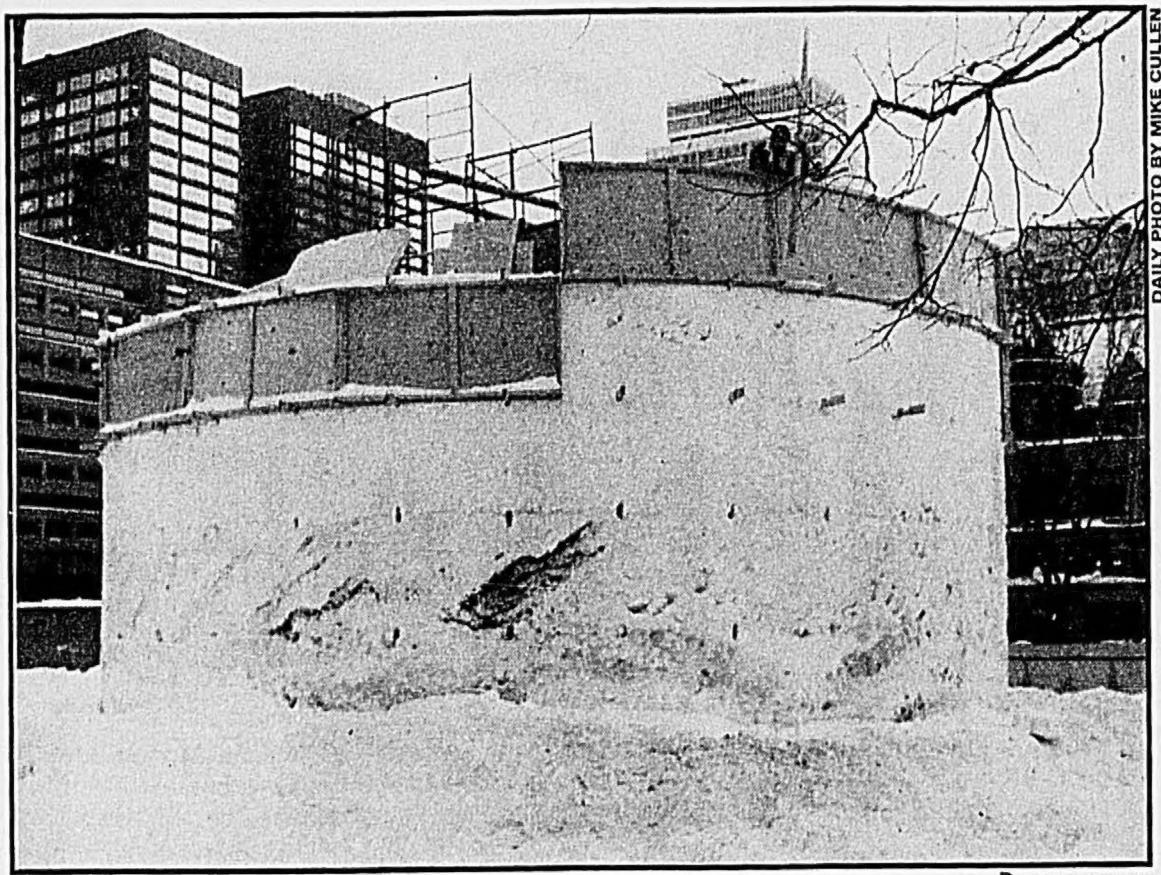


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Icy building looking better than real ones

The oversized igloo currently dominating the lower field of campus is actually the start of a replica of the Roman pantheon

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built at one-fifth the original size.

"I teach a course called design and construction, and this is the construction part," said Peter Sijpkens, the architecture professor coordinating the project.

"It's a project [that] we've built ourselves, and we can actually feel and see it, which is unusual for architecture," said Manolo Langis, a U2 architecture student working on the pantheon.

Sijpkens explained that the pantheon's construction was timed to coincide with McGill's 175th anniversary, the School of Architecture's 100th anniversary and the University's upcoming winter carnival.

That means it has to be finished by Jan. 26, at which point it should be about 50 feet high, 32 feet across, and ready to host a Snitches concert, a barbecue and perhaps a sleepover.

The original pantheon, which had considerably more staying power than McGill's — about 1800 years worth — probably cost a whole lot of gold and sweat.

Ours costs \$8 000.

And although the finished product will weigh about 400 tons and be arguably one of the more attractive buildings on campus, the fact remains that it is a snow structure, and thus temporary.

Sijpkens expects the structure to disappear "very much faster on the sunny side" and look very much like a Roman ruin before too long.

Then McGill will have a \$8 000 watery mess, courtesy of the hardworking fundraisers at the 175th anniversary headquarters and the School of Architecture.

Which leaves one question: Why is a University that is slashing its faculties' budgets raising money for snowy birthday presents?

-J. Reis

Letter

In defense of Del Monte

To the *Daily*,

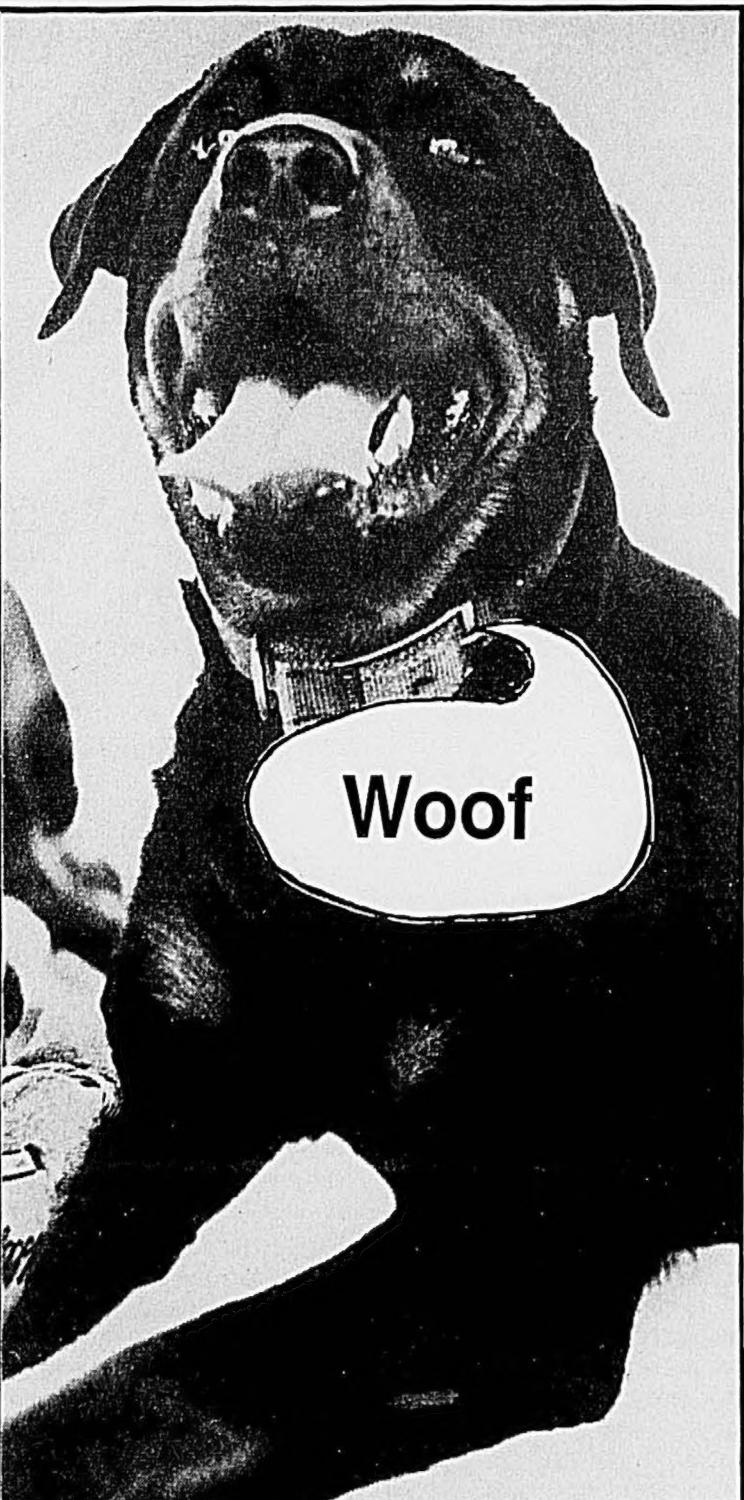
The *Daily* article on boycotting certain multinationals was maleficent [sic] to some very important branches of those multinationals in Canada. An article of this sort can lead to irascible behaviour among the uninformed.

I will defend two of the listed companies, though my interest in them is not a monomania. Del Monte (Nabisco) and Green Giant are both important buyers of fruits and vegetables from Canadian

producers.

Green Giant is an important buyer of fresh vegetables for canning in Canada. This company is actively providing markets for Québec producers of vegetables for canning in Canada.

The only remaining fruit-canning factory in Ontario (and I think Canada) is run by Nabisco through their Del Monte subsidiary. Tender fruit production in the region surrounding this cannery accounts for about 80 per cent of Canadian output. Nabisco directly buys about one-third of the peach production from

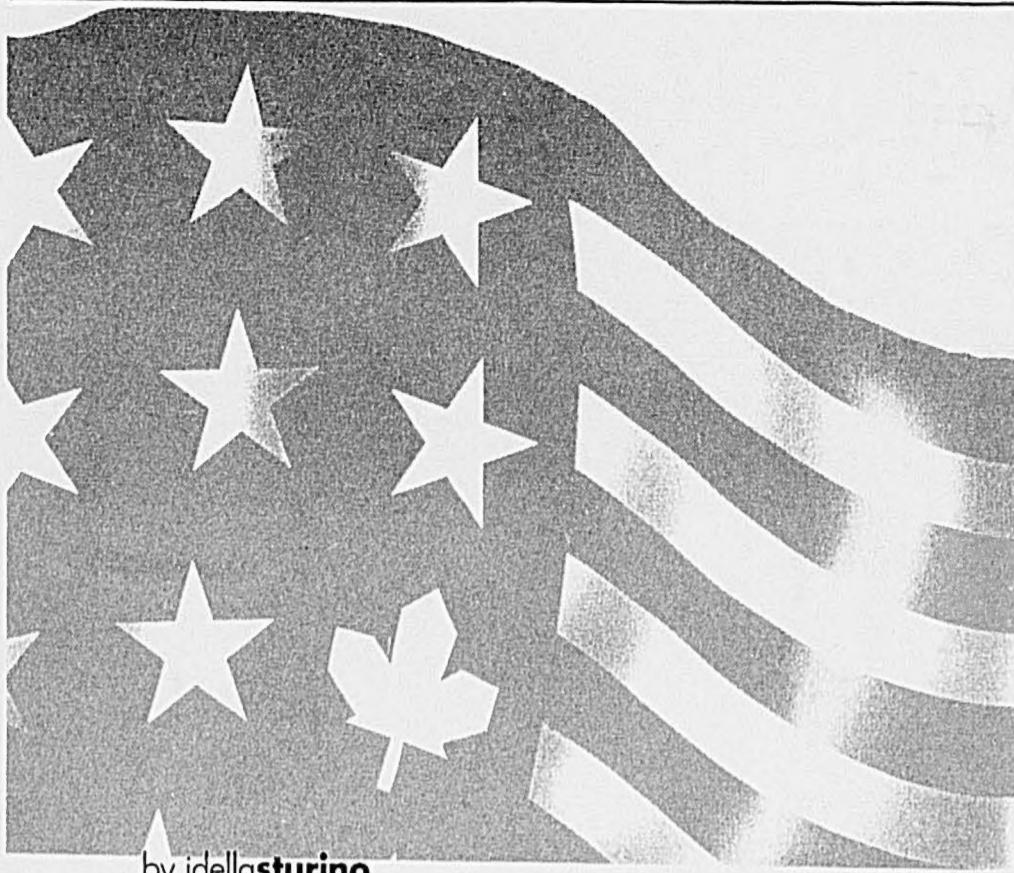


"Uncle Dog Wants You"

Everybody is welcome to the first Daily staff meeting of the semester. Come and participate today and every Thursday, 17h in Shatner B-03.

superannuated. In the case of Nabisco, if there are problems with banana plutocracy, why not boycott just the bananas. Or not boycott at all, instead write letters to the company explaining why you think it a poltroon. Boycotting products like Del Monte canned peaches, for example, is a cowardly method of change and it harms the Canadian economy. I am sure similar arguments can be made for all the companies listed.

**Bradley-Thomas
Romanek
Education, U3**



by idella sturino

Five years after the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA) came into effect, and only a couple years after Prime Minister Jean Chrétien ratified the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), it seems as though most Canadians have forgotten what all the fuss was about. Despite the silence, NAFTA continues to be the source of serious problems for all three countries.

Recent findings by Public Citizen, a US watch-dog consumer group, suggest that NAFTA has meant more harm for Mexico than good. The report, released last week, pointed to harmful environmental and health ramifications in *maquiladora* cities along the Mexico-U.S. border, where export factories are most affected by the new trade agreement.

While the opposition to free trade seems to have slowed down, one group continues to voice its opposition to the agreements made by Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Citizens Concerned About Free Trade (CCAF), a 12 000 member strong, national, non-partisan organisation was formed in 1985 to campaign against the FTA deal then in the process of being negotiated. Today, the group continues to advocate for the cancellation of the FTA and NAFTA and raise awareness about what it sees as an encroachment on Canadian sovereignty by US companies, culture and policy.

In 1993, CCAFT national chairman David Orchard wrote a book called *The Fight for Canada: Four Centuries of Resistance to American Expansionism* (Stoddard). Currently, Orchard's publisher is awaiting final word on a Canada Council grant to translate the book into French under Québec publisher Hurtubise.

Although Orchard's book was not reviewed by major newspapers or welcomed by

radio talk-show hosts (CCAF workers claim the CBC has consistently refused to allow them on the air for fear of their anti-free trade platform), it did manage to make its way onto the best-seller list.

The book attempts to provide an overview of the history between Canada and its southern expansionist neighbour, in particular with regards to the question of free trade. Although it presents a somewhat naive account of four centuries of north-south relations, its analysis of the detriments of the free trade deals is a worthwhile and accessible introduction.

Last January, Orchard and two co-workers from CCAFT were charged with mischief and obstruction after handing out leaflets while attending a debate on the Canada-U.S. wheat dispute and the future of the Canadian Wheat Board in Saskatoon. After a two day trial in July and several months of judicial deliberation, the three were finally acquitted in late November.

The Daily spoke with Orchard, a former Saskatchewan farmer, in early November shortly after the Québec referendum.

Like many others who have made similar criticisms of Chrétien after the referendum vote Orchard referred to the Prime Minister's leadership as "don't worry be happy" speak. He pointed to the need for a stronger national leadership in Canada.

The forty-something author said it was naive to think an independent Québec could remain sovereign in the face of the increasing American sprawl. Referring to the sense of cultural bombardment Québeckers feel in the face of English media, Orchard says it's not the rest of Canada which is the source but the U.S.

There is no doubt that Orchard comes across like a traditional nationalist, the kind

that people wary of flag-waving tend to be skeptical about. In fact, some would argue that the incentive to pull out of the free trade deals should focus on ending the mutual exploitation of North American workers rather than on bolstering Canadian pride.

Nonetheless, his comments are a useful reminder of the questions raised during the free trade debates, before the slump of resignation we have seemingly fallen into.

The following are some of the thoughts shared by Orchard with the Daily in a recent interview.

Canadians, and it's to drive us down to the level playing field that they always talk about. Our UI system is going to be revamped to bring it in line with the American system... our Medicare plan, the Canadian Wheat Board, the Canadian National Railline is up for sale now... It's not only an assault on our standard of living, our jobs, but if we stay in this NAFTA and FTA, we're going to end up being assimilated into the US. That's where we're headed. So that's why we're fighting: we're

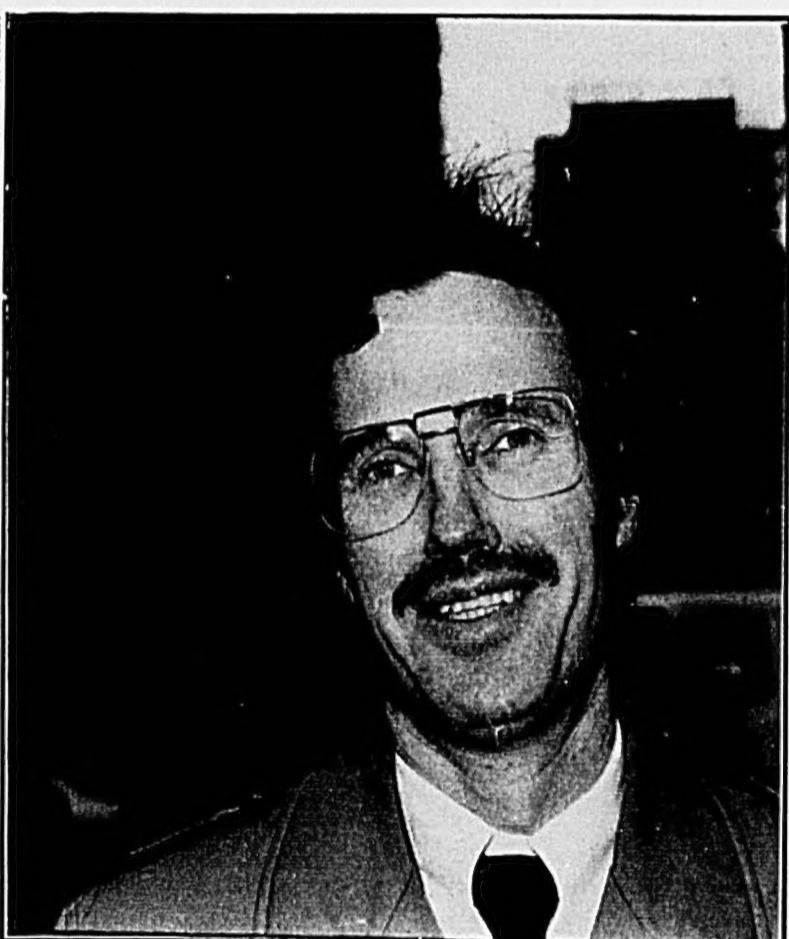
notice and Mexico now, and then withdraw. So legally there's no problem. But politically, it's another thing. Chrétien, in '93 said he was going to re-negotiate or abrogate the FTA and NAFTA, and he got into power and ratified it without changing a comma.... What they ratified was exactly what Mulroney and Bush had negotiated.

If you had to say there was one mandate for the CCAFT, would you say it is to get

Daily: You've been touring because it's the eighth anniversary of the signing on the FTA, and I'm wondering what people are up to eight years after the fact around free trade, and what Canadians can do at this point?

Orchard: What we're doing is still fighting against the agreement because all of the things we predicted are coming true. We lost 500 000 manufacturing jobs across Canada in the first four years of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement; a quarter of the manufacturing base of Canada disappeared. So the effects have been quite dramatic and the standard of living is not rising as they [free trade advocates] promised it would do, it's falling. Unemployment is what's rising and the welfare lines are stretching out, and now you have this deficit hysteria.

You can't lose a third of your manufacturing base without having a tremendous impact on the revenues government brings in. They're [governments] not talking about that. Suddenly this debt came out of nowhere, suddenly you have to slash everything.... This debt and deficit hysteria we're seeing is really an ideological attack on the standard of living of



DAVID ORCHARD CHALLENGES NAFTA

fighting because we'll be assimilated if we stay in... or else we get out and build an independent nation.

Is it possible to pull out of the FTA at this point?

Yes. That six month clause is still there. At any time, Canada can give the US six months

the government to ratify or withdraw from the agreements?

We're circulating a petition and we've got many thousands of signatures on it now, and we're going to send it to people inside government reminding and calling on them to get out of it [the FTA and NAFTA].

ST THE David Orchard WHEEL

In your book you talk about the fallout of the FTA and NAFTA. What kinds of effects are we seeing?

The biggest thing we've seen is a loss to a quarter of our manufacturing sector, and Montréal and Québec has been devastated in the same way that southern Ontario has in terms of the job loss. They promised cheaper goods and services for all Canadians... under free trade.

The consumer price index has actually risen and there's a new tax, the GST which came on to replace the loss of tariff revenue. So one of the biggest things that Mulroney said was that [the FTA] would have no effects on our foreign policy, but we've been just virtually behaving as a satellite of whatever the Americans want around the world.... that's the logical ramification. If they control our economy they're going to end up directing what we do. And then we're seeing these structural changes, much more trade between north and south, much more links, kind of a massive Americanisation of our culture and the systematic cutting of the links that hold the country together: communications, railway, transport, the airlines. Canadian airlines is now controlled by Americans. This is the kind of encroachment we're seeing on our sovereignty and our culture.

We [the CCAFT] really stand alone as the only organisation that's still fighting on this front because most of the unions have made their peace with [NAFTA] and in this province, the CSN [Quebec's Confederation des syndicats nationaux] and others that were our allies in the fight against free trade are now supporting Parizeau and Bouchard to break up the country. And on the other side the CLC [Canadian Labour Congress], Bob White and all the others have said free trade is here to stay and there's nothing

more we can do about it so they're focusing their fights on some of the symptoms like 'let's defend Medicare' or 'let's try to stop welfare cuts,' but those are just the symptoms of the big picture which is that if we don't have any control over our economy we're going to see this just escalate.

So yes, we're the only ones talking about it and there's been a kind of systematic attempt in the media to keep this out of the mainstream media.... it's like 'oh, that's past news, now we want to talk about something else. Let's talk about the deficit. Let's not talk about where the deficit came from, just deficit deficit, cut everything.'

Suddenly we're broke. Now, do we have a shortage of money or do we have a shortage of analysis?

On the political forefront, is there any sort of way right now in Ottawa to open up debate again? Your group is trying to get this issue reopened. Has anyone been responsive to that?

A good number of Liberals are very worried about what's happening, like Warren Allmand... but the rest of the Liberals are systematically ripping up all of their red book promises, and the Reform party is essentially Mulroneyites in a hurry... and the NDP is basically out of the picture, they didn't fight free trade to start with... so there's nobody speaking for the majority of Canadians, who voted against free trade in 1988 when Mulroney called a referendum on free trade and got 43 per cent of the vote. Then in 1993 Chrétien said if we can't re-negotiate we'll abrogate and so people voted for him. So Canada voted twice against free trade but we got it imposed on us anyway and so it's like we don't talk about it anymore. But we say we're not going to stop talking about this or we're going to lose our country.

Nerenberg's latest won't leave you guessing Invasion of the Unsubtle People

by loriwaxman



PHOTO BY GEORGE HARGRAVE

DIRECTOR ALBERT NERENBERG

We (myself and my lovely cat Shiru) are experiencing a dilemma as we sit facing the glowing computer screen, psyching ourselves up, down and around to write a review of Albert Nerenberg's new directorial dodo *Invasion of the Beer People*. Shiru and I previewed the forty-four minute documentary together; you can glaze your eyes with this so-so satire about Molson's Polar Ice Beach Party this coming Monday at 10 pm on CBC. If indeed you do choose to view the show, and you like to do these sorts of things with friends, we suggest placing your goldfish, in her bowl, next to you on the couch. Chances are, her intelligence will be less insulted by the invasion than your cat's will be. And you never know how a cat might exact her revenge for human stupidity.

But I digress (I am no longer we. Shiru has left me for crunchier treats). Let me return to my dilemma: I don't like *Invasion of the Beer People*, but I want to. If intentions were everything, I would not be dithering over this dualism.

Nerenberg films his documentary from the right camp. He exposes the smelly marketing underbelly of the big fish called Molson. The corporation brashly and commercially treats Tuktoyaktuk as the unique advertisement locale of the century. They throw a \$10 million beer bash in a town which considers alcoholism to be its number one problem. They leave the scales slightly unbalanced between their total

concert expenses and the nice \$35 000 they present so graciously to the Tuk community. They flash Molson money at a nauseating pace, and use it to essentially rent the Tuk town along with its locals.

It's a very smelly belly. In fact, it's such a smelly belly that the stench threatens to knock you over onto your goldfish friend, who is seated swimmingly beside you, enjoying the intellectual challenge of the show. Nerenberg damn near shoves every one of his fishy satirical messages down your throat, and he serves each one at least five times smothered in five different sauces.

Molson's Brewery Employees #7, 8, and 9 lift cases of Molson beer from an airplane. Contest Winner #16 seriously contemplates the greater truths behind the one-beer-at-a-time regulation at the Molson complimentary beer table. The Tuk Mayor avoids issues of beer promotion in an alcoholism-ridden town. Tuk Teen #173 (they're everywhere) laments through his wide grin that he's bored and he's going to drink alcohol. And in case your pea-brained goldfish still hasn't quite caught the point, Tuk Resident #22 expounds intelligently on problems the community faces in dealing with substance abuse.

This tiresome, in-your-face over-and-over again style is cut with random, amusing little snippets. Nerenberg can almost be forgiven for

showing off his grasp of video technique in these giggly bits of comic relief—almost, but not quite. The groundhog (maybe it was a gopher?) walking on its hind legs at a much faster than normal clip, then walking backwards at an even faster clip, then forwards, then back... I guffawed. It was cute. Now I know that Nerenberg (I have an urge to refer to him as Albert) can work those editing machines with a sense of humour.

He also uses those editing machines to alter the visual images presented in other frames. At the close of many an interview, the captioned Molson Employee or Contest Winner is transformed into a silvery negative image. Segments of interviews are cut up and spliced back together from different angles. The camera tricks are nice, but too often they do not seem to serve any greater purpose.

If you do not have plans for Monday night, and your cat is asleep but your goldfish is awake, then you could do worse than to crack open a can of tuna fish and plop down on the sofa to watch *Invasion of the Beer People*. But be forewarned that even your goldfish might be insulted.

Invasion of the Beer People airs Monday, January 15, 1996 on CBC



GATE CRASHERS KAREN LAPINSKY AND LORRAINE BATES



Survivors - December 30, 1995
by Derek Fung

The Daily welcomes photo submissions for *Off the darkroom floor...*

Headfood good for the soul **Joining the political and the stylish**

by marknarron

"A lot of politically-minded people have no style, and people with style are usually non-political," says dxtr x, the mastermind behind Headfood, a combination of reggae, hip-hop and activism at Bar Voltaire on Sunday nights.

"The idea behind this is to get the community and culture together," explains dxtr. Groups representing serious local and global causes inform the public on how to get involved from 7 to 9 pm, followed by a not-so-serious hip-hop ambiance from 9 to 3 am. Or at least not as serious.

Headfood debuted last Sunday and featured a video presentation by the Montréal Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a speaker from le Comité contre la brutalité policière, vegan cuisine provided by Food Not Bombs, and "the finest selection of conscious hip-hop" spun by DJs Moss and Francesco.

Headfood is essentially dxtr's production. "This is my baby," he comments shyly. After years of being an activist for everything from gay rights to prisoners' rights to animal rights, and being an ardent member of the Montréal club scene, dxtr decided to pull his connections together. As he

says, "I have two goals—to get this information out there and to do it with style and fun."

Dxtr has been trying to bring political activism into the mainstream for years. Besides being a veteran DJ and an ex-club manager, he has produced his own animal rights television show in Winnipeg. The show was considered so violent that it was pulled off the air. "Remember *The A-Team?*" he asks proudly, "Our show was on at the same time and they told us we were too violent."

Though Headfood is meant to be fun, it is not for the politically squeamish. Dxtr makes no bones about the radicals he hopes Headfood will attract. "I want to eliminate the idea of 'political geeks' and push the mainstream of life in a political direction."

Dxtr says he was basically disillusioned with the club scene after quitting drugs and realising that the scene was all about making money off of "people's sexual energy."

"I got out of it," he explains, "and became more and more political." His faith in the club scene was renewed after visiting a club called the Wetlands in NYC. "Seven days a week it's an activist centre during the day,

club by night. I saw some serious revolutionaries hanging out with hip-hop kids." Wetlands gave him the idea to give otherwise isolated groups exposure in a club atmosphere.

Dxtr hopes that Headfood will not only help inform otherwise stylishly naïve club-goers, but will also give various Montréal groups contact with each other. Food Not Bombs will be a permanent presence at Headfood, providing cheap food and free vegan lunch. The Alternative Bookstore is also involved, unofficially serving as dxtr's activist library.

"The Alternative Bookstore has been a big resource," he comments, "I'm hoping they set up a book table." Dxtr has also made it clear that any activist group interested in booking Headfood is welcome to contact him. "I'm inviting groups to come to me. I'm hoping to invite more cultural groups... and to promote groups that don't have the resources that others do."

The debut of Headfood was a testament to the variety of issues that Headfood wants to address. A video screening against capital punishment, a letter-writing table to flood U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno with appeals to stay the

execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and a speaker denouncing the MUC police were just some of the political issues represented on Sunday.

However, dxtr was quick to emphasise Headfood's musical diversity. "It's a reggae, hip-hop vibe," he said, "but labels are misleading. I don't know anyone who listens to only one kind of music." DJs Moss and Francesco have a broad repertoire of dub ("the 7-inch stuff from Jamaica"), dancehall and jungle.

This Sunday, Headfood will be featuring groups dealing with the political situation in Guatemala. There will be a screening on Guatemalan communities of resistance, and a speaker on peace work there. "We hope to have some Guatemalan music too," added dxtr.

When asked if there will be a cover, he replied, "No cover yet. The earlier part of the evening will be free. These groups are volunteering." So Headfood promises to be stylish, political and — uncharacteristic of style or politics — cheap.

Headfood starts at 19h, Sunday nights at Bar Voltaire, 11 Prince Arthur W.

Events

Today

- "Women, Violence and Gun Control": Lecture by Heidi Rathjen and Suzanne Laplante-Edward, speaking on support for Canada's new gun control law. McGill Faculty of Law, Moot Court, 3644 Peel, 17h30.

Friday

- Prayer for DARE! McGill Christian Fellowship is having a prayer walk in support of the DARE mission. Meet in Shatner Caf, 19h. For info call Jean 848-1720.
- The McGill Taiwanese Students' Association's exciting Chinese Buffet/Karaoke Reunion Nights are finally here! Join us from 18h30 to 22h at the Jade Garden in Chinatown. \$10 members/\$12 non-members. Meet in Bronfman at 18h if unsure of location. Call Leanne at 933-5095.

Monday

- McGill Christian Fellowship presents "The Gospel according to Robin Williams" at 11h30 Leacock 232.

Tuesday

- Physical and Occupational Therapy Dept. will be featuring a Variety Show "Tuesday Night Fever" at 19h30 in Shatner ballroom. Tickets available in advance or at the door. Door prizes will be given out. For info call Anick at 495-4863 or Catherine at 649-0385.
- McGill Christian Fellowship presents "Making Sense of Evil and Suffering" 16h, Leacock 232. In English and in Mandarin. Snacks provided.

Wednesday

- LBGTM's Bisexual Group starts off the new year this evening at 17h30 in the Women's Union (Shatner 423). Both men and women are invited.

Ongoing

- Actors needed for Concordia TV3 Drama production. Preferably First Nations persons, men and women. Auditions Jan. 18 and 19. For info call Allyson 691-6045 or Johanne 485-5942.
- Student playwright seeks female director to work on a McGill drama project. Experience not necessary. All women welcome. If interested call 845-8752.
- Literacy Partners of Québec. We can help you with your reading. For info call the LEARN line 931-7434 at Literacy Partners of Québec.
- Volunteers needed for Contactivity services for seniors. Call Joanne at 932-3433.
- Compeer Montréal is presently recruiting volunteers 18 years and over who are interested in working in the mental health field. For info call 489-1007.

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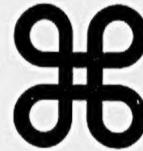


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Oliver Jones - *From Lush to Lively*

(Justin Time Records)

Montréal-born, world-renowned jazz pianist Oliver Jones has released something quite different from his usual repertoire that consists mainly of jazz trio or quartet recordings. Ever-willing to try something new, Jones in this latest undertaking is trying his hand where Duke Ellington and Count Basie have set the standard—the big band format. What sets this recording apart from similar undertakings by others are two major factors: the wonderful arranging done by Rick Wilkins and, more importantly, Jones' subtle and complex piano work.

Backed by the respected Boss Brass orchestra, the album manages to convey a sound that is at times powerful and strong while at others soft and mellow. To get this sound, Jones uses a backing band composed mainly of strings rather than the usual brass that is standard in most big band recordings. As for the title, *From Lush to Lively*, it generally describes the general mood of the album and the general range of each of the songs, "swinging" from dark introspection, as is characteristic of Jones' solo piano work, to the "lively" big band sound. Though *From Lush to Lively* may prove difficult to penetrate for the novice jazz listener, it is an important if rare example of modern big band jazz.

gilshochat



Quartango - *Espresso*

(Justin Time Records)

If you were to turn on the television at the time when tango music was at the height of its popularity, the shows you'd most likely see would include *I Love Lucy*, *The Honeymooners*, and the show with everybody's favorite theme-song — *Rawhide*.

Since its North American pinnacle in the 1950s, tango music has received little attention or recognition in Canada beyond a small group of hardcore fans. Recently, however, Quartango, a local group of four classical music and jazz professors, has been getting national exposure. Consisting of a violinist, a double bassist, a pianist, and an accordion player, Quartango takes traditional tango music with its Spanish/Buenos Aires

roots and heavy emphasis on the fourth beat and combines it with modern improvisational jazz. This music is unique in that it retains the excitement and sensuousness of traditional tango while infusing a quintessentially jazz sense of swing and improvisation.

The repertoire on *Espresso* also breaks the traditional jazz-tango barrier by including material written by the great jazz bassist Charles Mingus played in tango time. Quartango is a group that is extremely dynamic and does not remain in periods of musical stasis for very long. From its start as a jazz fusion band known as Icarus, it has constantly redefined itself. The direction of its future musical exploration remains to be seen; however, its latest musical undertaking is definitely worth noting.

gilshochat



Dc Talk - *Jesus Freak*

(Forefront/EMI)

The need for fusion of different styles and elements produces material that doesn't always equal success. Dc Talk merges soft rock, rap and various other styles in a way that clashes rather than complements. The songs are constructed to begin with the rock melodies and choruses, adding in the rap or spoken word segments near the end. Additionally, the lyrics are Christian spirituality-oriented, values that might delight a few but alienate other listeners.



Three of the album's 13 songs have either Jesus or God in their title—something I haven't seen since the times I last went to church regularly, a sentiment that is certainly shared by many listeners. Seeing as the trio hails from the Bible belt of Tennessee, it seems an appropriate but limiting factor as their appeal may be strictly regional rather than national or international. Only in this one instance will I admit that rap sounds better in a dance song than in a rock song of Dc Talk's.

mikecullen



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